

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 25303 100614Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 TRSE-00 /017 W
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R 100226Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3149
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 25303

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, TH

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REF: BANGKOK 24565

1. RAY HODGE, PARTNER, TIPPETTS-ABBETT-MCCARTHY-STRATTON (TAMS) AND J.P. BELLANCA, TAMS'PROJECT OFFICER, BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT STUDY, VISITED EMBASSY ON 9/8 TO INFORM US AS CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH RTG REGARDING THE AWARD OF THE AIRPORT FEASIBILITY STUDY TO TAMS.

2. HODGE REPORTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALMOST COMPLETED (FINAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 9/9). HE EXPECTS THE CONTRACT TO BE SIGNED BY SEPTEMBER 25 SO THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS CAN OBLIGATE THE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THIS PROJECT PRIOR TO FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1.

3. ACCORDING TO HODGE, THE ONLY PROBLEM THUS FAR HAS BEEN THAT THE MINISTRY HAS REDUCED THE AMOUNT BUDGETED FOR THIS STUDY FROM APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO \$630,000. THIS WILL FORCE A REDUCTION IN MAN/HOURS WORKED AND, AS HODGE INFORMED THE MINISTRY, A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN QUALITY. SUBMISSION OF THE FIRST DRAFT WILL BE DONE WITHIN TEN MONTHS AND THE FINAL REPORT IS EXPECTED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF OCTOBER 15, THE PROJECTED STARTING DATE.

4. ALTHOUGH THE CONTRACT WILL NEED OFFICIAL CABINET APPROVAL,
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 25303 100614Z

HODGE DID NOT EXPECT ANY PROBLEMS OR DELAYS. HE SAID THE

CABINET IS AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND IS ANXIOUS TO PROCEED
ON THIS PROJECT.

5. CURIOUSLY, ASIDE FROM ONE RECENT ARTICLE IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY TRADE NEWS WHICH WAS
PICKED UP BY THE NEWS SYNOPSIS, A PRIVATE DAILY ENGLISH
LANGUAGE BUSINESS PUBLICATION, THE AWARD HAS NOT YET RECEIVED
ANY NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY, AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS WARE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO25303
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760341-1153
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760975/aaaacloz.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 24565
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2005 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TAGS: BEXP, TH
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006